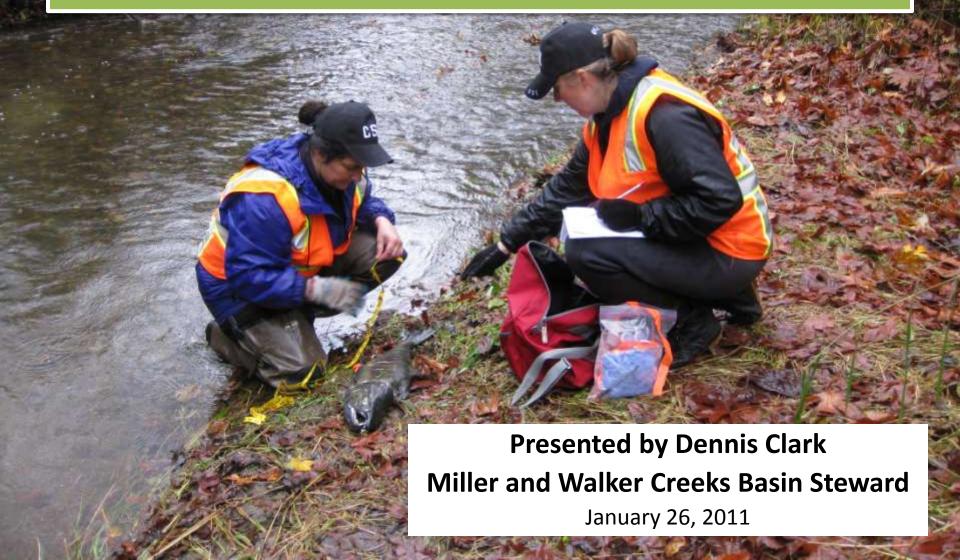
# Community Salmon Investigation for Highline "Season Finale"





## Community Salmon Investigation for Highline 2010 Results

- 1. Purpose of Community Salmon Investigation: Highline
- 2. How *CSI: Highline* works
  - Stream surveys
  - Necropsies
  - Survey locations
- 3. Results of October December 2010 surveys
  - Summary data
  - Analysis
  - Weather and stream flow information

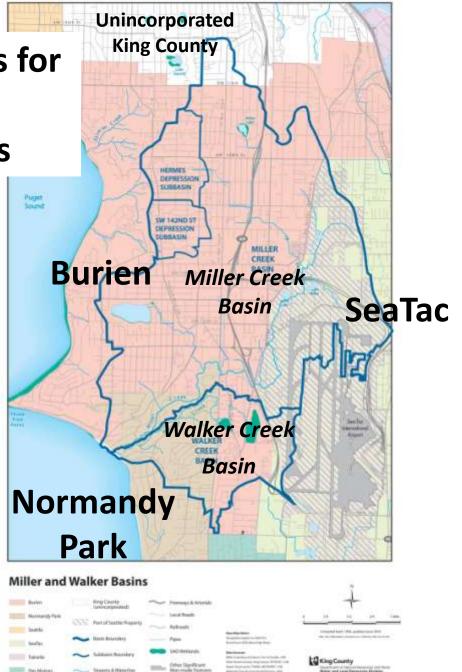
#### Volunteer Recognition

- Plans for 2011
- 5. Factors affecting stream and salmon health
- 6. Your role!





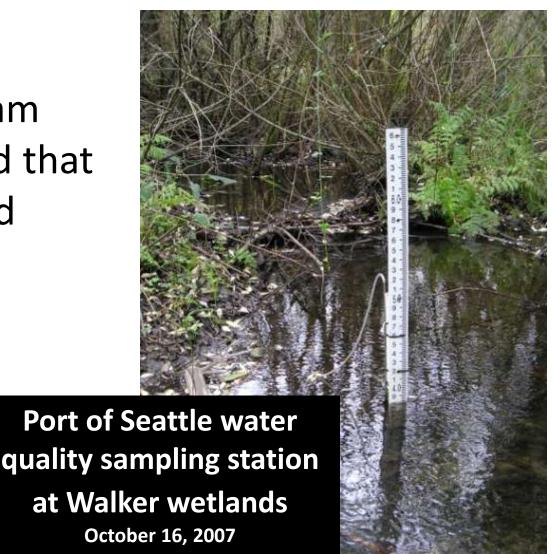
Basin Boundaries for Miller and Walker Creeks



## Draft 2006 Basin Plan Recommendation on Monitoring

An on-going basin monitoring program should be initiated that will allow for trend analysis of:

- Flow (volume)
- Water quality
- Habitat data

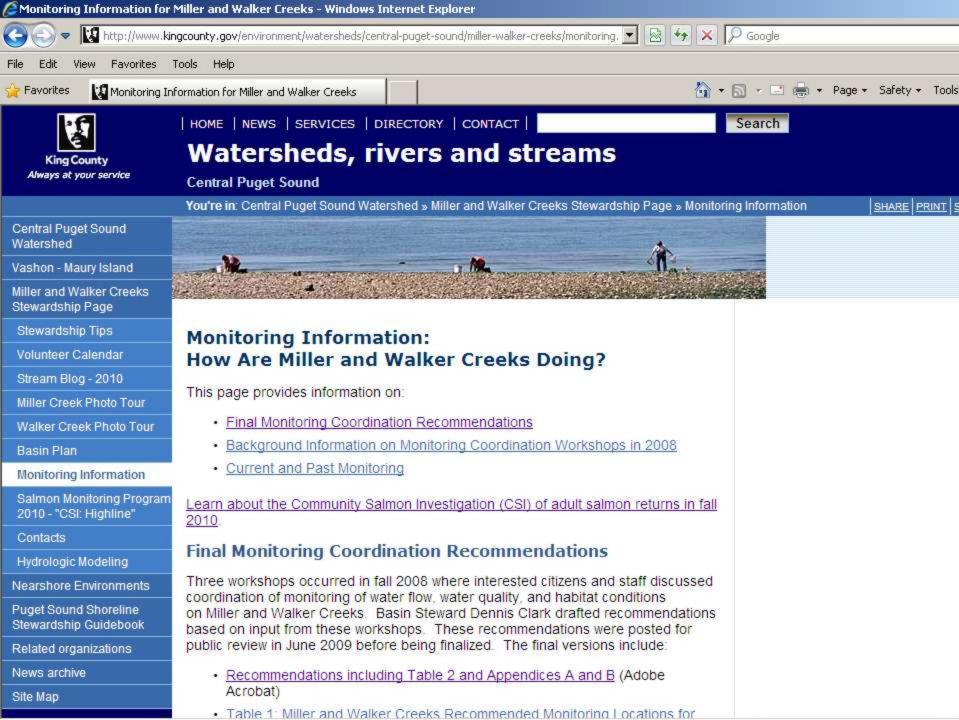


## Basin Monitoring Coordination Workshops Fall 2008



## Basin Monitoring Coordination Workshops Fall 2008





### Activities and Purpose of CSI: Highline

Tasks	Why?	Use of Data			
Count adult salmon	As "keystone species," salmon are indicators of the health of fresh and marine waters and surrounding lands	Baseline data that will allow us to determine status and trends when monitored over time (>10 years)			
Identify whether coho are spawning before they die	"Pre-spawn mortality" is known to occur in Miller/Walker but extent has not been quantified	Baseline data that may allow us to determine effects of pollution prevention efforts in future			
Raise the profile of the streams and their resources in the Highline community	Improving the health of these streams and Puget Sound requires residents to be aware of and act to protect the shared resources of the streams	To be determined – by all of us!			

### Scientific Plan for Adult Monitoring

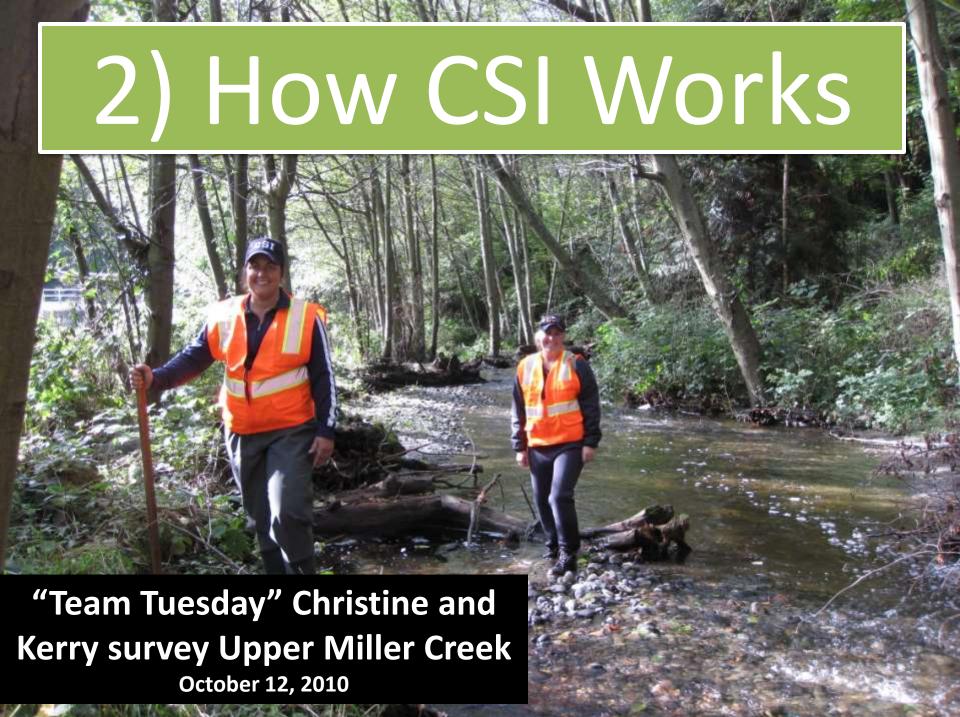
#### Survey Plan for Adult Fish Counting and Coho Prespawn Mortality in Miller and Walker Creeks

Community Salmon Investigation for Highline 2010

Version October 27, 2010

NOAA, Wild Fish Conservancy, the City of Seattle, King County and others have conducted a number of assessments concerning coho salmon in Seattle area creeks (Collier et al. 2003, Scholz et al. 2004, and McCarthy et al. 2008). Findings of these efforts indicate that while salmon were successfully returning to many urban streams, a high proportion of sexually mature female coho carcasses showed large numbers of retained eggs. Investigators documented highly erratic swimming behavior and prespawn mortality among both male and female coho. Affected fish from different urban streams displayed a common suite of symptoms, including surface swimming and gaping, fin splaying, spasming, disorientation, and loss of equilibrium. The cohousually died within a few minutes to a few hours after becoming overtly symptomatic. Visual inspections generally indicated that the affected coho spawners were in good condition, with the silver coloration typical of salmonids that have recently transitioned to freshwater from the ocean (McCarthy et al. 2008). This phenomenon has been termed coho prespawn mortality (PSM).

In Miller and Walker Creeks, PSM has been documented and is probably a serious concern for



#### CSI "Cast"

20 volunteers from Burien and Normandy Park

Seven daily teams – one team for each day of

the week

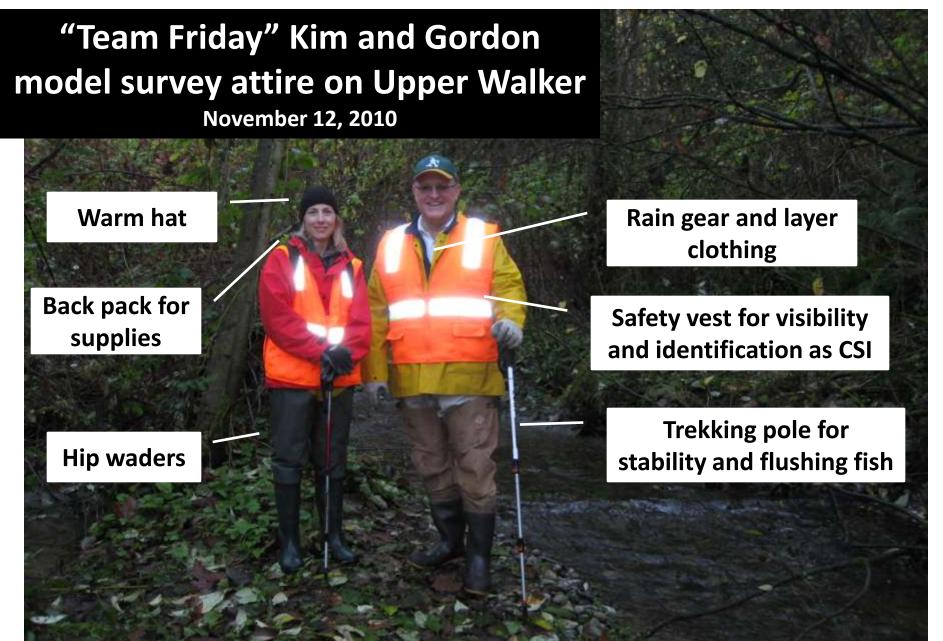
Backups to fill in

"Team Sunday" David and Ethan with male coho carcass on Miller Creek October 17, 2010 Photo courtesy of David Bobanick

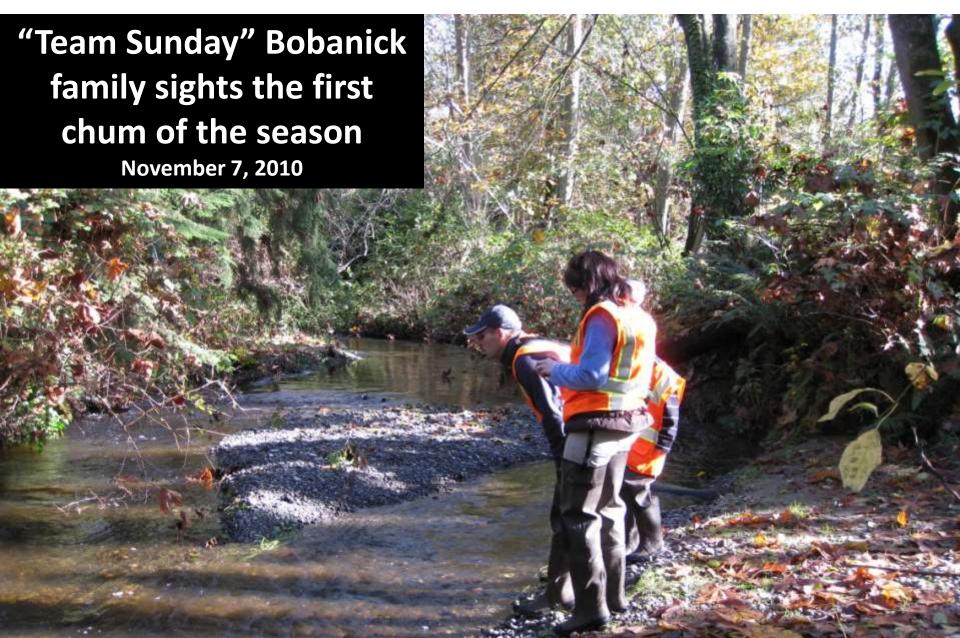
### **CSI Training**



### CSI Style



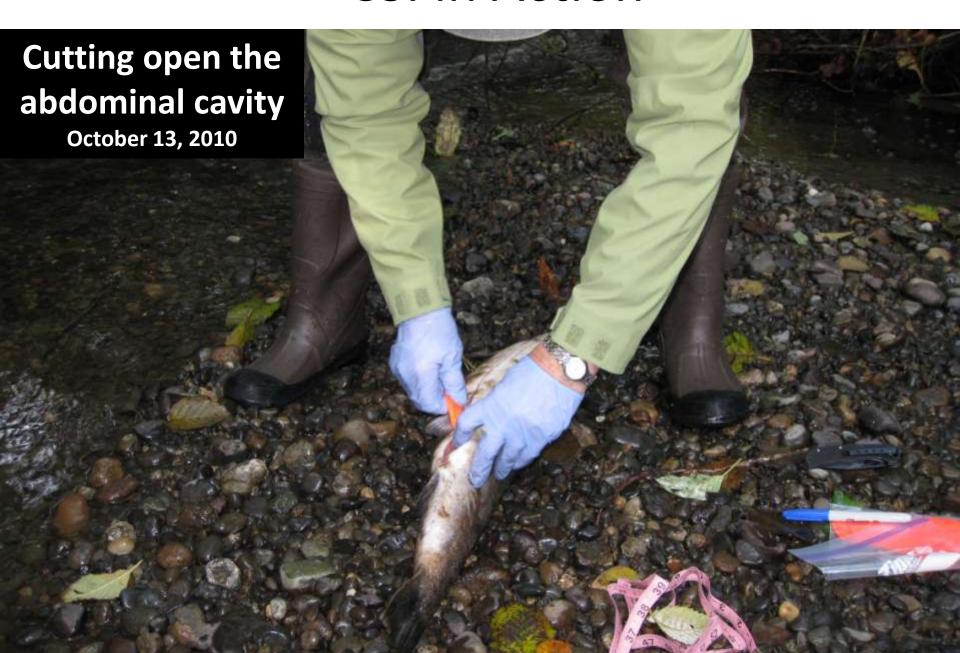


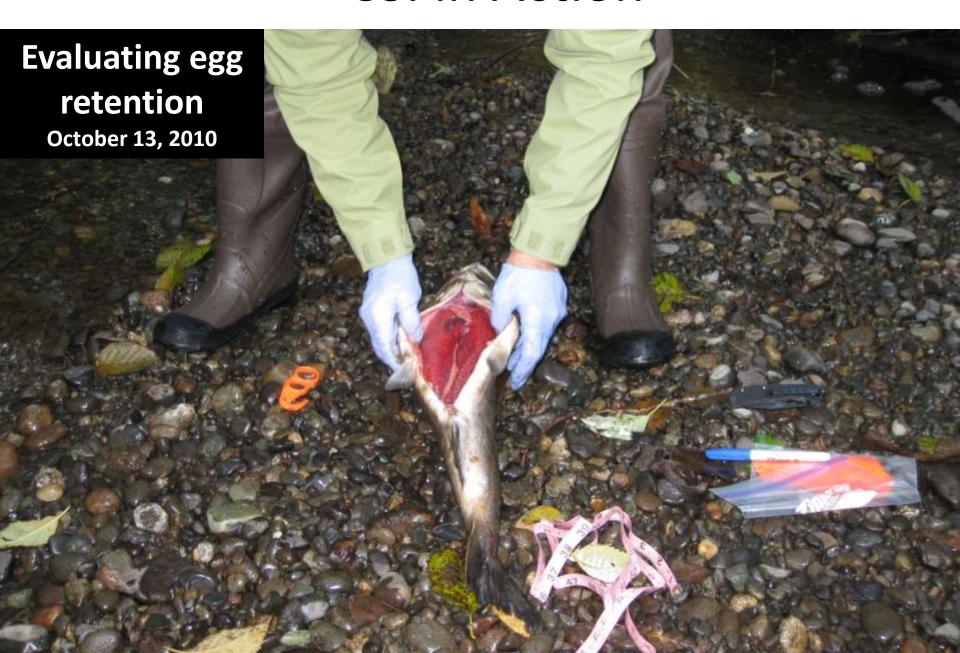




















Daily Survey Sheet - Community Salmon Investigation for Highline

Find

. 14 . 7		Team Members: Jon Jones Paul Codd & Mike Codd
Date: 12 / 2 /2010	100 E	Site: Miller and Walker Creeks

Dead Adult Fish	Length G	ength Girth	РОН	Ad Fin?	Sex	% Egg Retention (dead females)			Spawning Condition			0	Species	Notes (including presence/absence of milt in males)	
Fish ID#			(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(Y/N)	(M/F)	0-25	25-50	50-75	75-100	PSM	POST	PRED	UNK
Example: 101510_ LwrMir PSM01	52	40	36	Y	F				Х	X					Lower jaw missing
12210-Uprmer- Unkol	NIA	NA	NA	-	ak	NU	NIA	NIA	NIA				X	Chun	Tail and Skin only
(20210_ CWFMLF_ UNKOZ	NA	NIA	NI	Y	Unk	N(p	NA	NIA	NIA	-			×	Olecus	Tail and offin deteriorated
120210 - Cur MLE- Pred 03	69,5en	NIA	48	多	M	NA	N/A	NA	NA			*		Chain	Had belly skin and fail intact wildle organs . From

Live Adult Fish Notes Regarding Adult and Juvenile Fish, Wildlife, Stream Other Adult Fish (record here if not Chum Condition (flow volume, clarity, presence/absence of foam) Location Coho confident of species ID) Congerends 2-6' Very large head observed in unter above Bridge #4 Clear - five I Did on swimslub property and 2 large realls Lower Miller 86 Lower Walker Some white form otherwise clear 2 possibly working a roll 6 Upper Walker fish within 15' upstroom of crossing 21 Upper Miller dier than prev week + tannie Suspected redds (list location and marking/flagging that your team placed): Upr M/- 100' S. of bridge 10' to left lamk of reduce deter sulvert an swim club in bend after feare Merked overhood after 20' down from

Start Time_	1:30 pm	End Time_	4:10pm	Weather:		Cloudy	Rainy
ersion 10.27.10			-		Temp 245	-0	

## Property Owner Permission Graciously Provided by:

- Ann and Stephen Backstrom
- Linda and Thomas Beffa
- Brett Fish
- Glen and Karen Gabrielson
- Chris Longridge
- Normandy Park Community Club
- Normandy Park Swim Club
- Southwest Suburban Sewer District

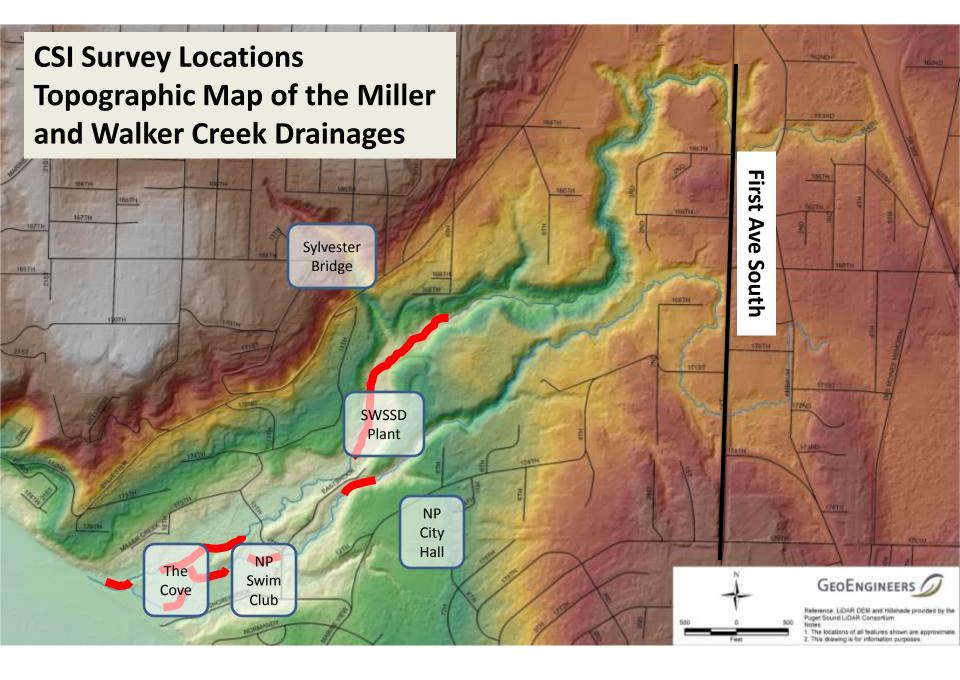


Image courtesy of GeoEngineers and Washington State Department of Transportation

### **Survey Locations**

- Four locations
  - Two on Miller Creek
    - Upper Miller Sewer District and Fish property
    - Lower Miller The Cove and Longridge property
  - Two on Walker Creek
    - Upper Walker Beffa, Backstrom, Gabrielson properties
    - Lower Walker The Cove, Swim Club

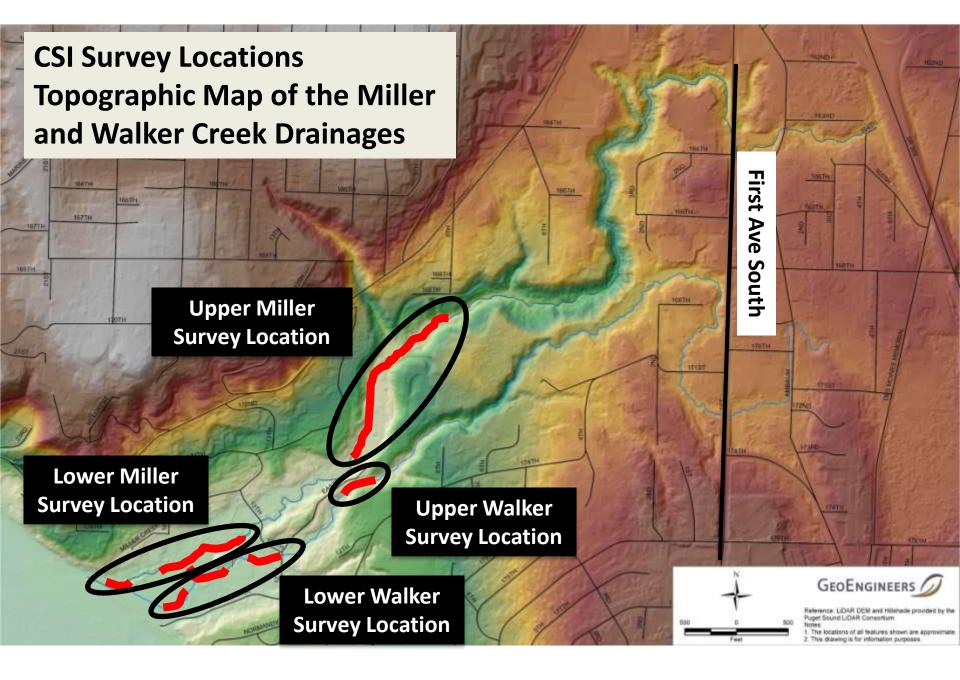


Image courtesy of GeoEngineers and Washington State Department of Transportation

#### Lower Miller Creek Survey Area - CSI 2010



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#### Lower Walker Creek Survey Area - CSI 2010



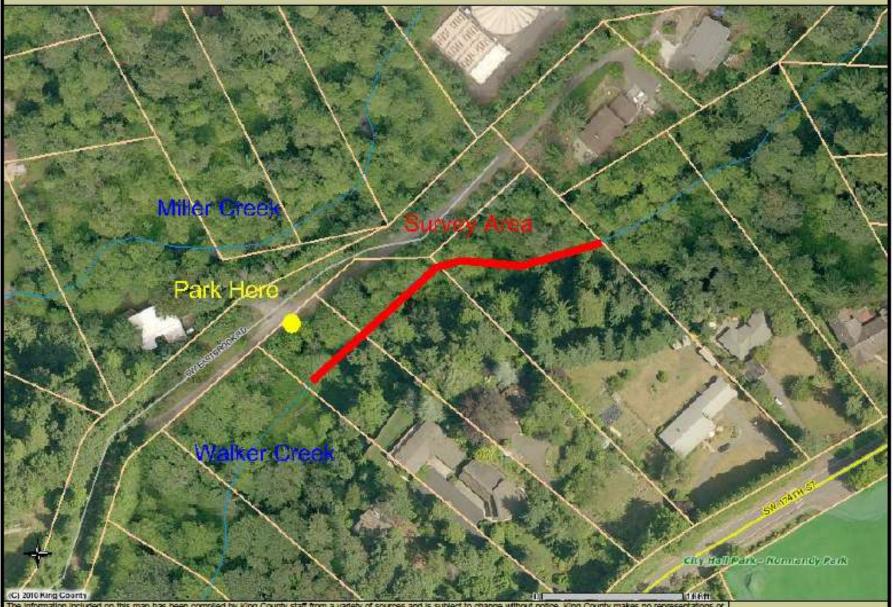
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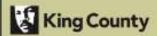
#### Swim Club Stream Restoration



#### Upper Walker Creek Survey Area - CSI 2010



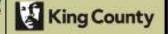
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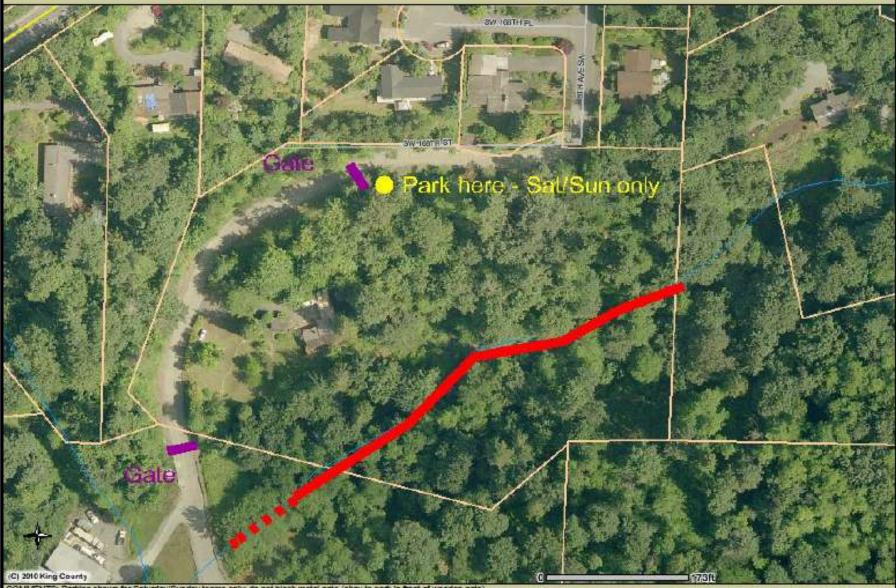
#### Upper Miller Creek - SWSSD Survey Area: CSI 2010



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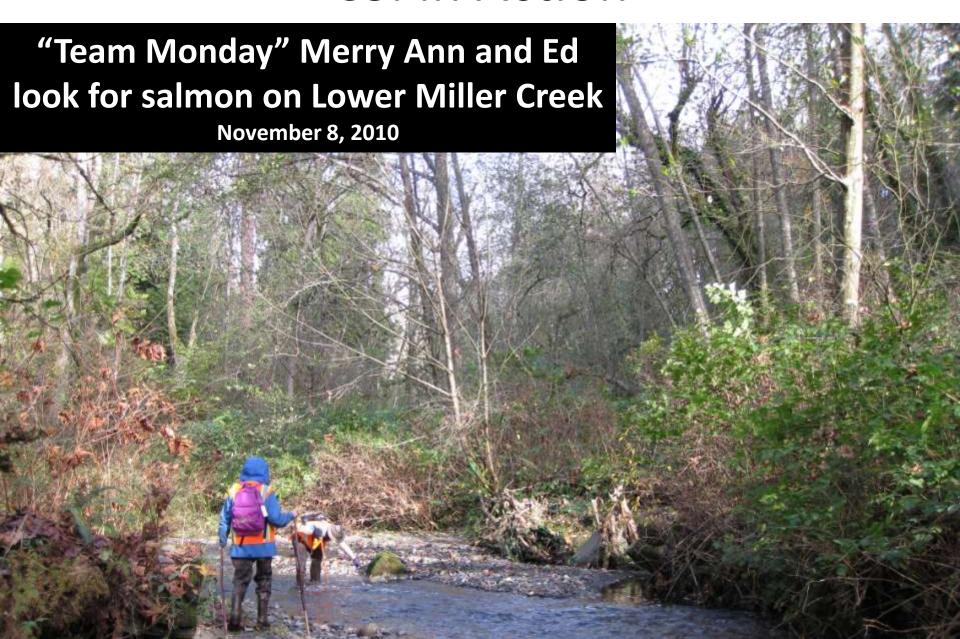
#### Upper Miller Creek - Brett Survey Area: CSI 2010



COMMENTS: Parking shown for Saturday/Sunday teams only; do not block metal gate (okay to park in front of wooden gate).

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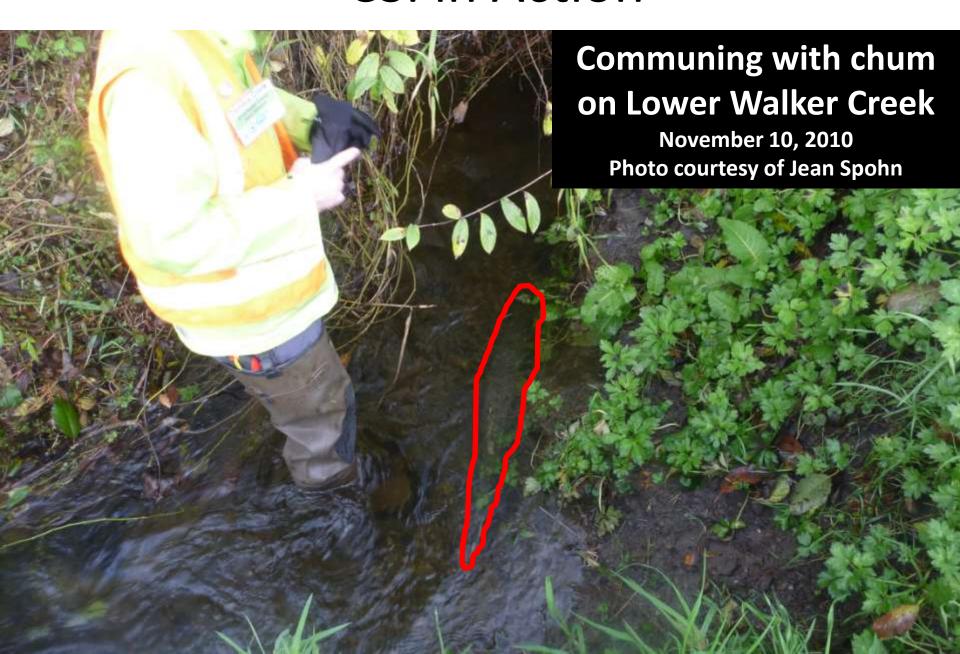












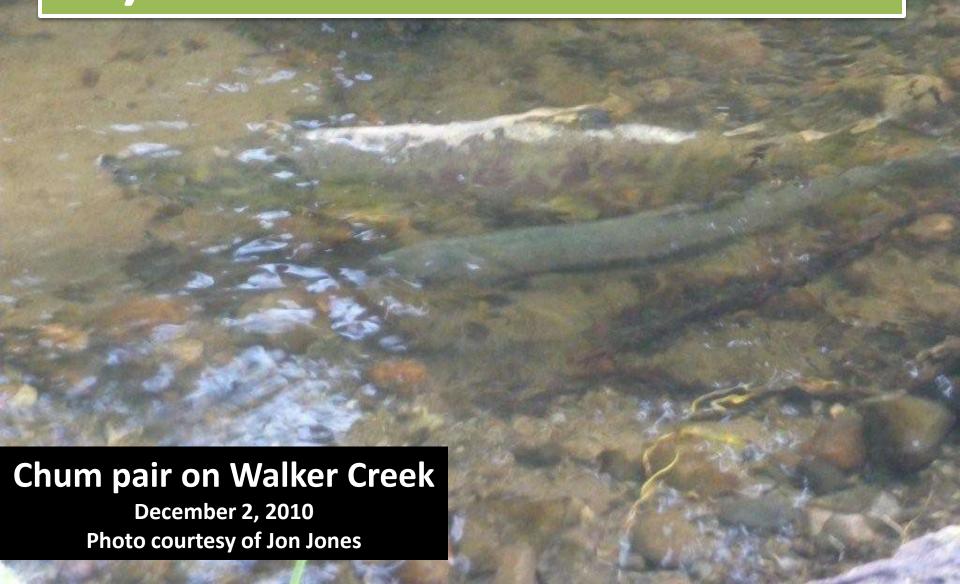




# CSI "Getting it done"



# 3) 2010 CSI Results



#### **Chum on Miller Creek**

November 17, 2010
Photo courtesy of Jean Spohn

Chum on Miller Creek on November 17 footage by Jean Spohn



# Coho: Life History

October 2007 Spawned

Early 2008 Hatched

• Early 2008 – early 2009 Rearing in stream

Early 2009 Migration to salt water

 Early 2009 – October 2010 Rearing in Puget Sound and Pacific Ocean

 October – November 2010 Migration upstream, spawning, death



# Chum: Life History

- Nov. December 2006 Spawned
- Early 2007 Hatched and migrated to salt water
- Early 2007 Nov. 2010 Rearing in Puget Sound and Pacific Ocean
- Nov. December 2010 Migration upstream, spawning, death

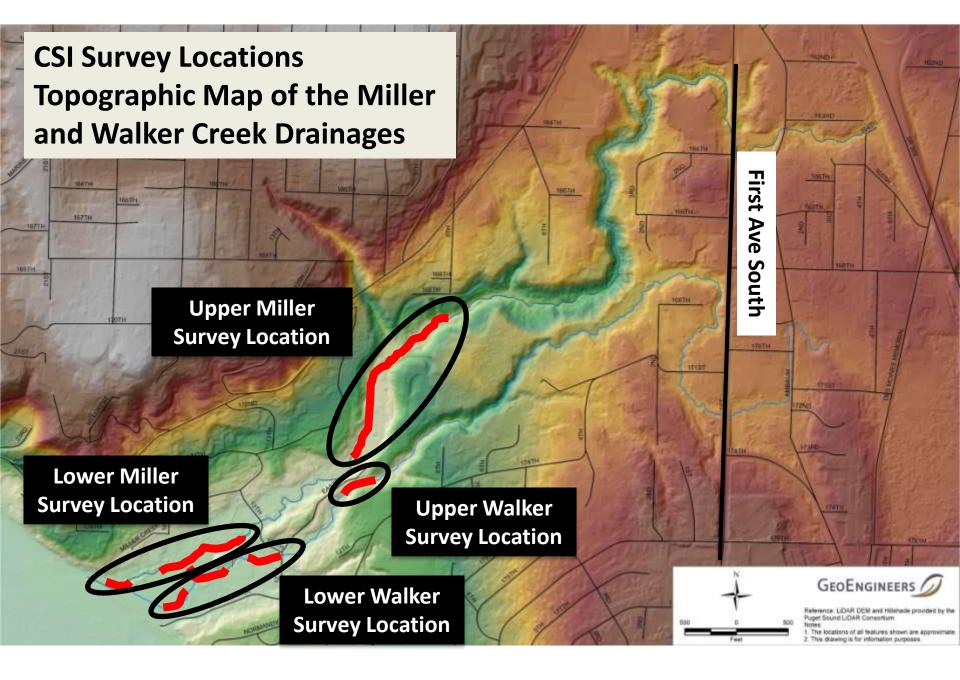


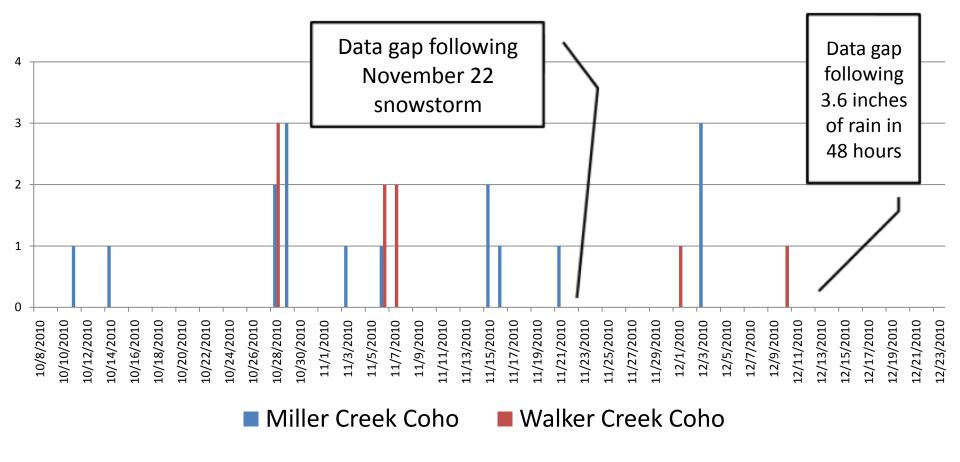
Image courtesy of GeoEngineers and Washington State Department of Transportation

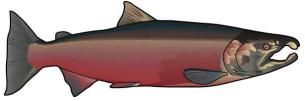
# Results: Live Fish Observations Summary

Species	Coho	Chum	Unidentified Adults
Miller Creek	16	252	52
Walker Creek	9	90	10
Total	25	342	62

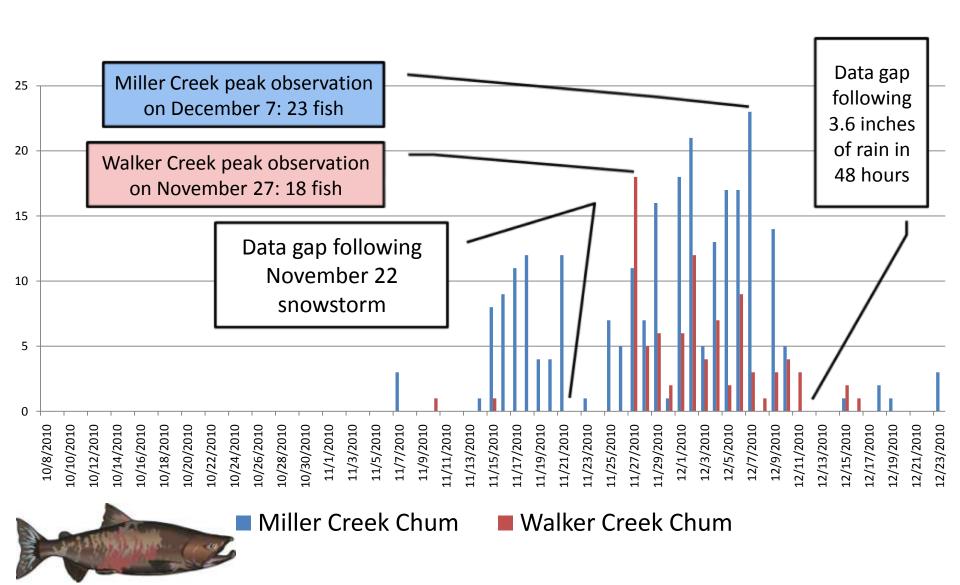
Unidentified adults are 14.4% of total fish observed.

#### Results: 25 Coho Observations

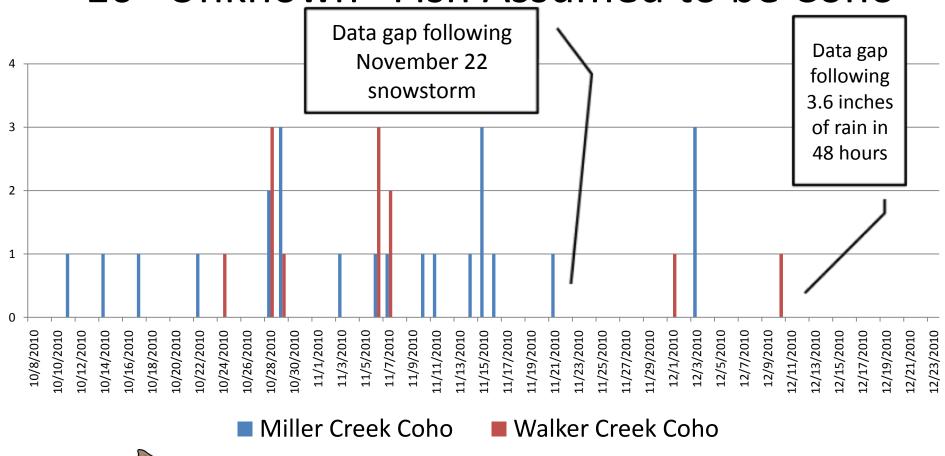


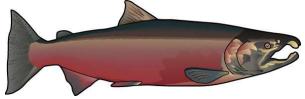


#### Results: 342 Chum Observations

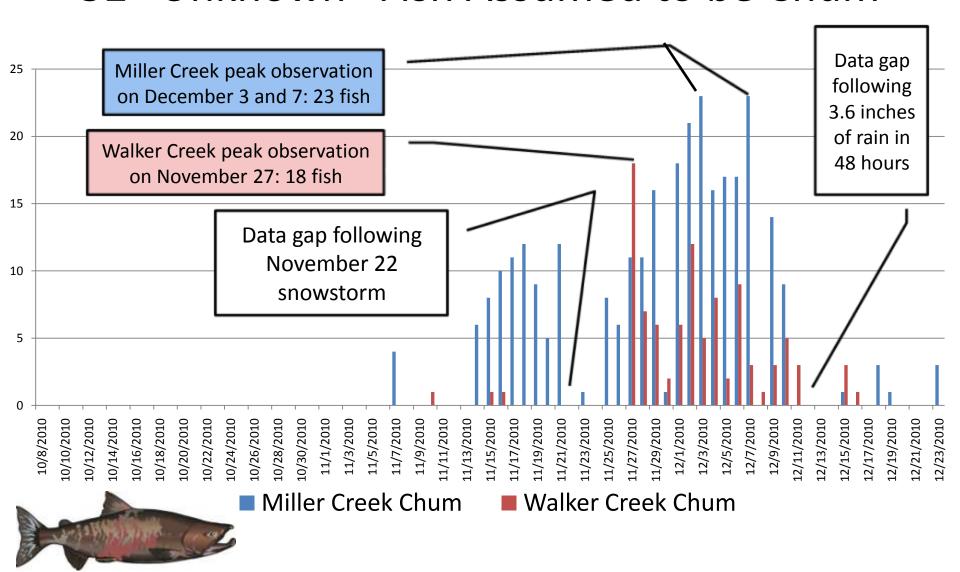


# Results: 25 Coho Observations with 10 "Unknown" Fish Assumed to be Coho





# Results: 342 Chum Observations with 52 "Unknown" Fish Assumed to be Chum



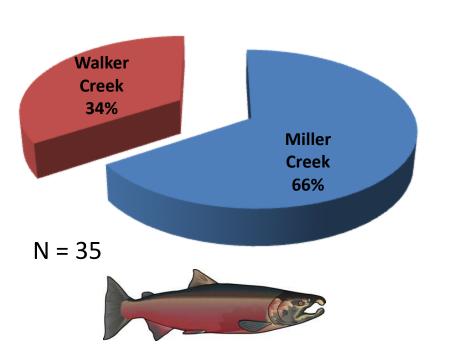
# Observations Summary with Assumption About "Unidentified" Species

Species	Coho	Chum	Total
Miller Creek	23	297	320
Walker Creek	12	97	109
Total	35	394	429

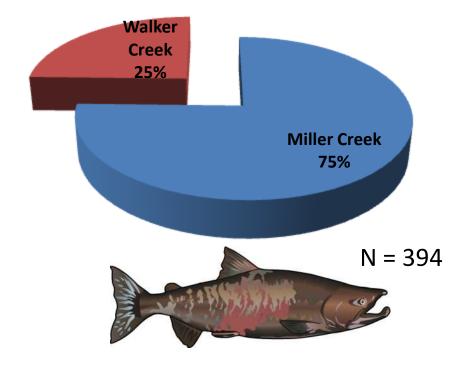
Assumption: Of the "unidentified" fish, 10 are coho and 52 are chum based on time of return.

# Species by Stream

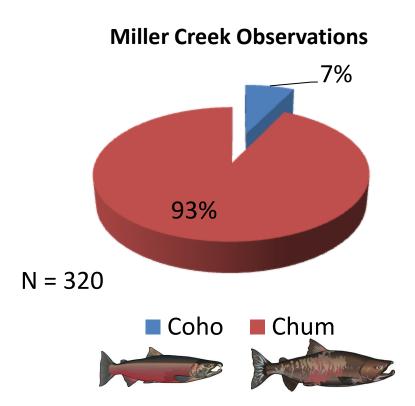
## **Coho by Stream**

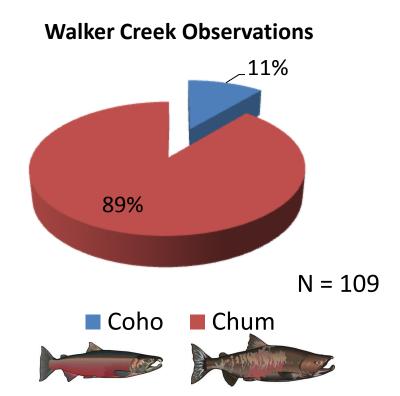


### **Chum by Stream**



## Use of Stream by Species





# Estimated Population

Species	Coho	Chum	Total
Miller Creek	23	199	222
Walker Creek	12	65	77
Total	35	264	299

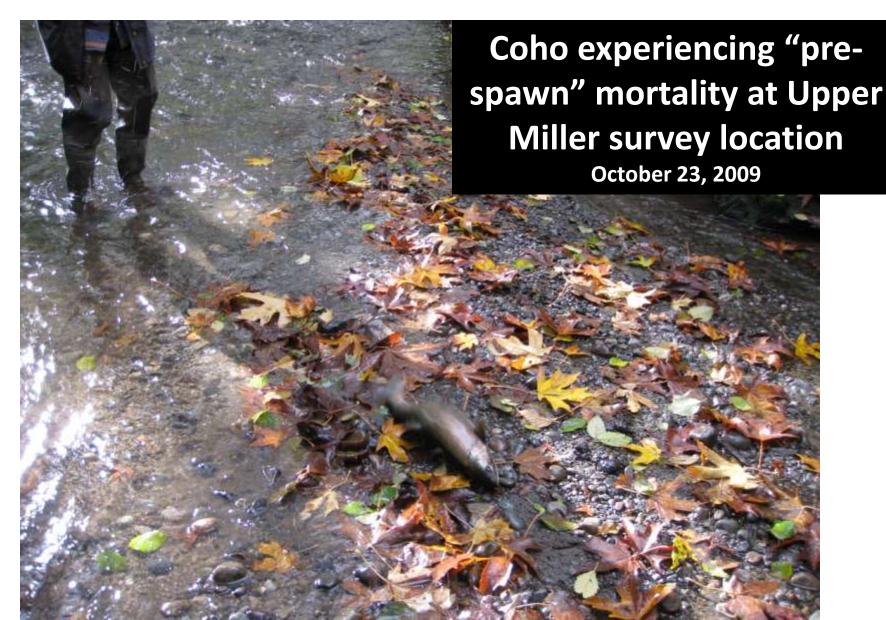
#### **Assumptions:**

- "Area under the curve" methodology applied to chum and 52 fish assumed to be chum. Methodology corrects for probable double-counting of fish that live for several days in the stream.
- Owing to distribution of coho returns and high level of pre-spawn mortality, risk of double-counting coho is low and "area under the curve" methodology is not applied.

# **Carcasses Summary**

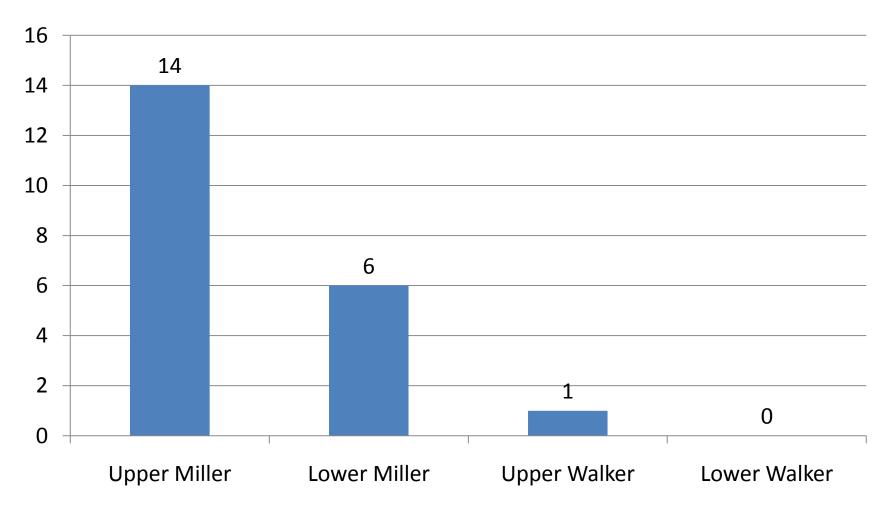
Species	Coho	Chum	Unidentified Adults
Miller Creek	20	25	2
Walker Creek	1	13	1
Total	21	38	3

# **Pre-Spawn Mortality**





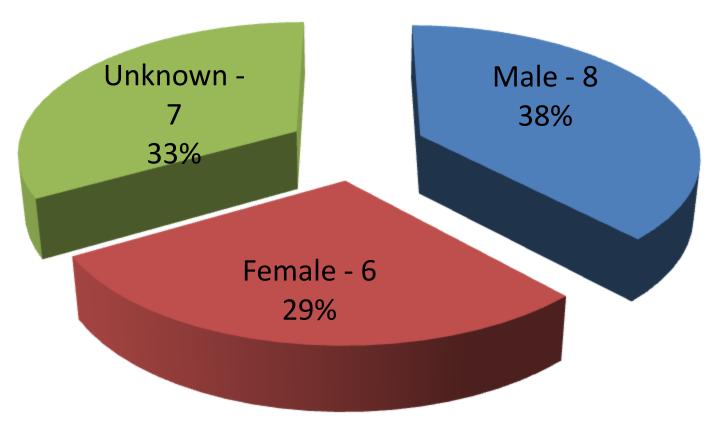
### Coho Carcasses: Location



N = 21



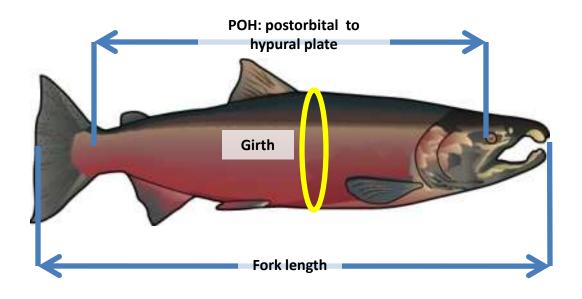
#### Coho Carcasses: Sex



N = 21

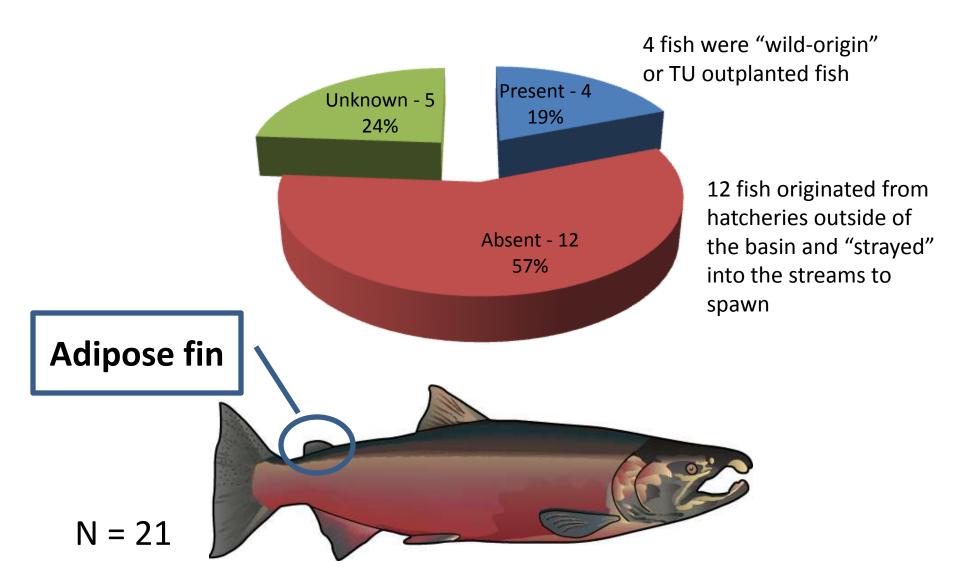
#### Coho Carcasses: Measurements

	Fork length	Girth	POH
	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)
Male average	59.7 (N = 8)	30.9 (N = 5)	38.8 (N = 6)
Female average	$60.9_{(N=6)}$	$30.7_{(N=6)}$	47.2 (N = 6)





# Coho: Hatchery Origin



# Collecting Coho Heads for Coded Wire Tag Analysis



"Don't mind the severed heads in the freezer!"

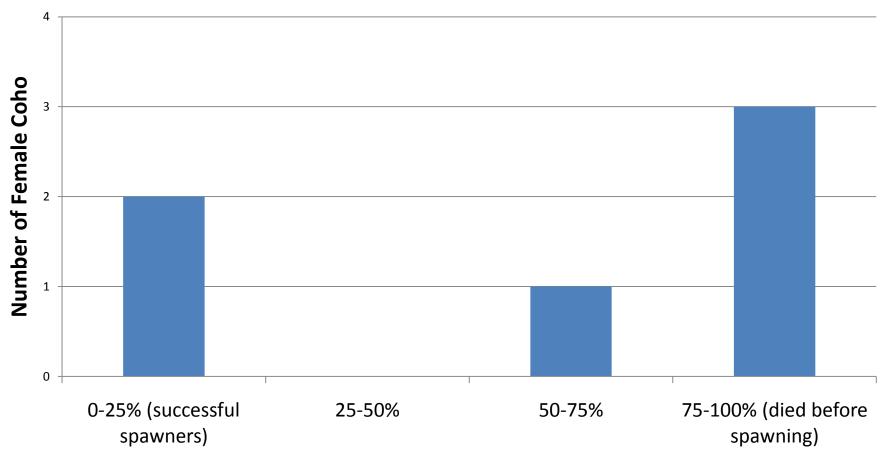


Transferring the heads to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Image from Alaska Department of Fish and Game



# Coho: Success in Spawning

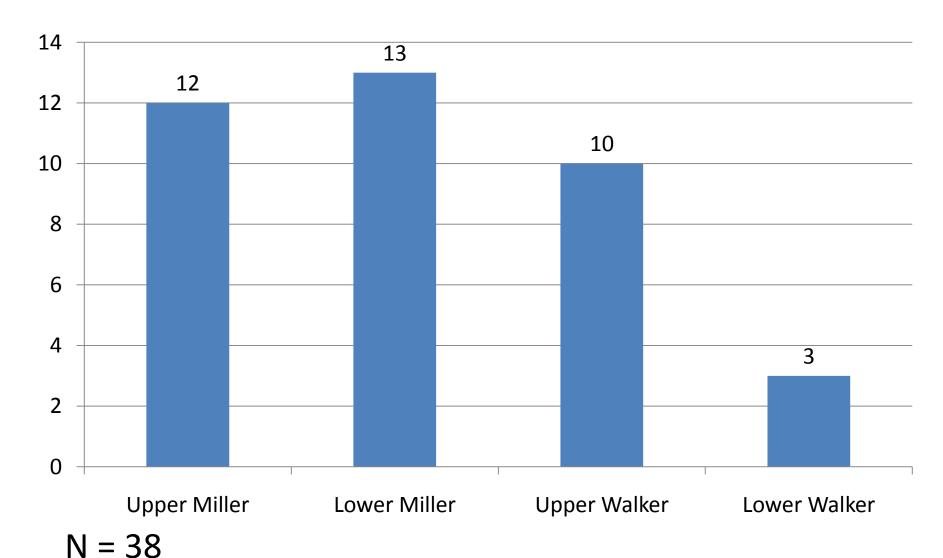


N = 6

**Percent Egg Retention** 

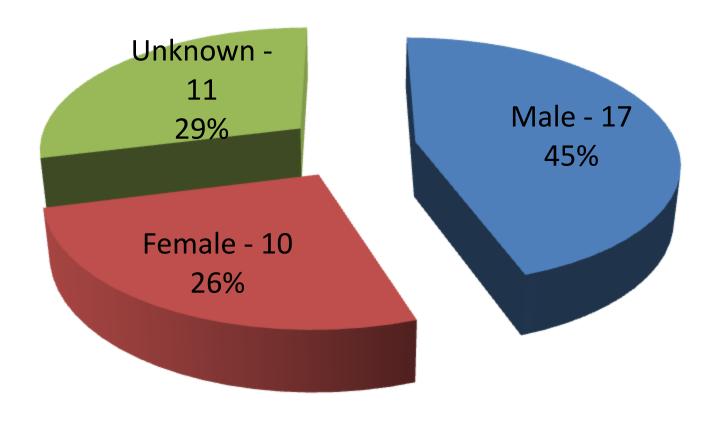


### Chum Carcasses: Location



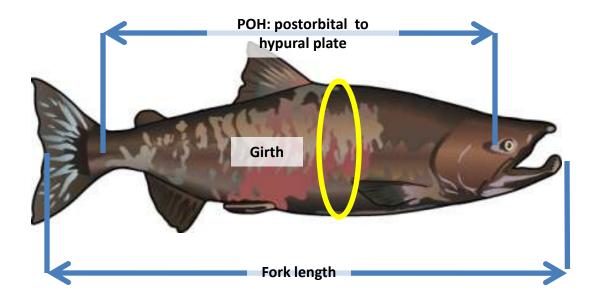


#### Chum Carcasses: Sex

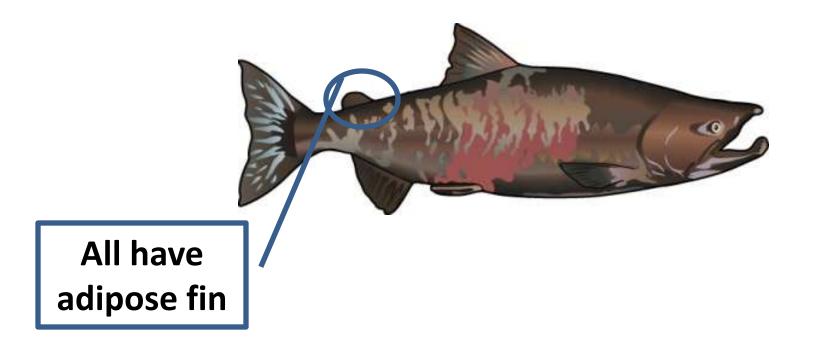


#### Chum Carcasses: Measurements

	Fork length	Girth	POH
	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)
Male average	66.0 (N = 15)	29.7 (N = 9)	47.7 (N = 12)
Female average	$65.0_{(N=12)}$	$26.3_{(N=4)}$	48.3 (N = 8)

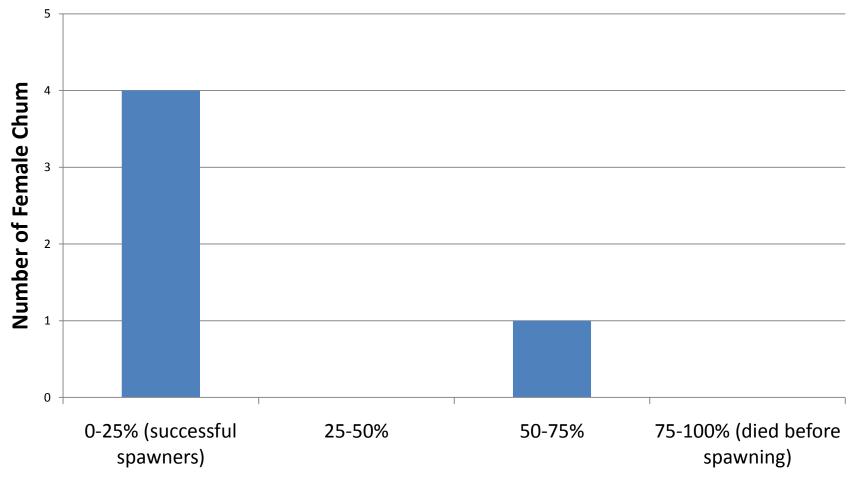


# Chum: Hatchery Origin Unknown





#### Chum: Success in Spawning



N = 5

**Percent Egg Retention** 

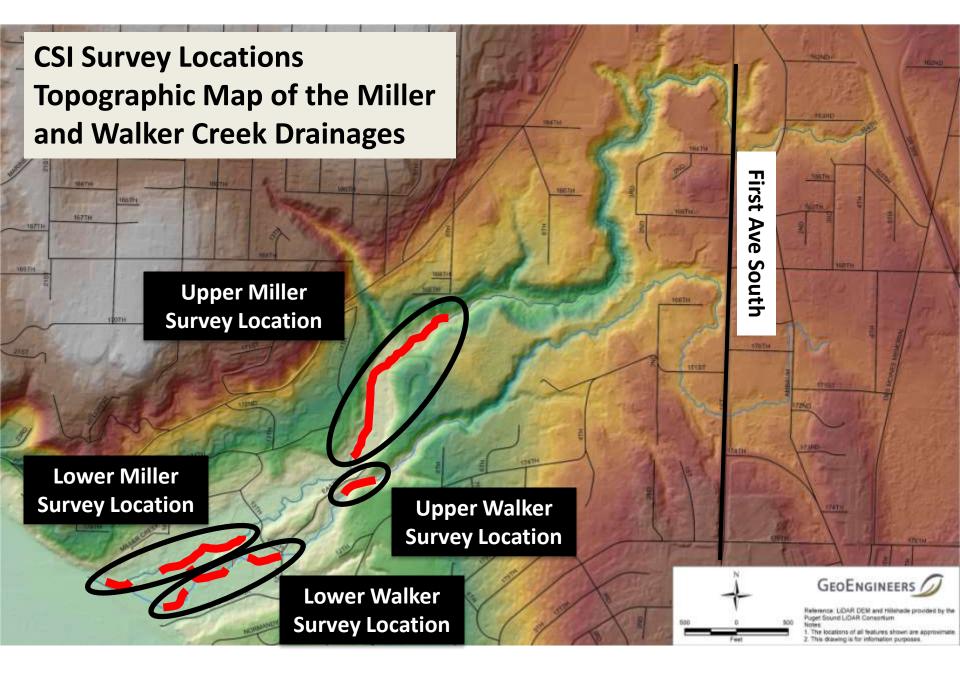


Image courtesy of GeoEngineers and Washington State Department of Transportation

#### The Mystery of the Missing Carcasses

- For every 1 living coho, we found 0.8 carcasses.
- For every 1 living chum, we found only 0.1 carcasses!
- For every 1 living chum seen on Walker Creek,
   3 chum were seen on Miller Creek.
- But for every 1 chum carcass found on Walker Creek, only 2 chum carcasses were found on Miller Creek.
- 90% of living chum seen on Miller Creek were seen at Upper Miller Creek location but only 48% of chum carcasses on Miller Creek were found at Upper Miller Creek.

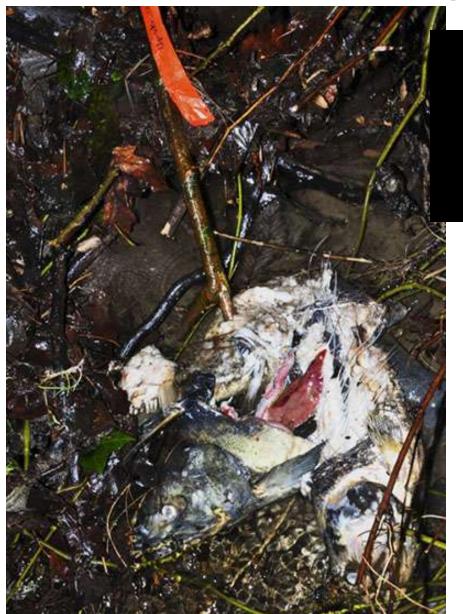
#### **Conclusions:**

- 1) Too few chum carcasses were found overall
- 2) Too few chum carcasses were found at Upper Miller Creek

#### Hypotheses

- 1. As the adult salmon migration season progresses, intensity of scavenging increases
- Scavenging activity is disproportionately occurring in the Upper Miller Creek survey area

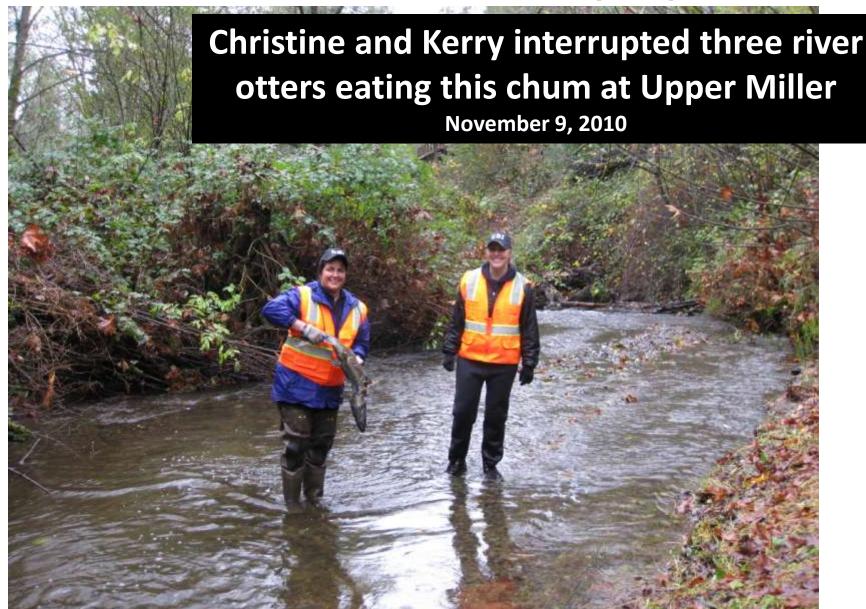




**Predation on staked carcass** 

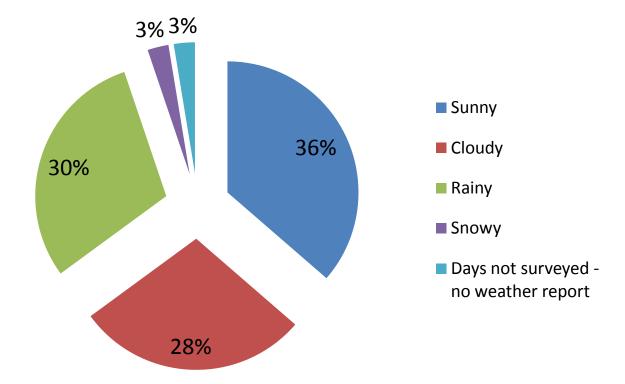
December 18, 2010 Photo courtesy of Annette Anderson



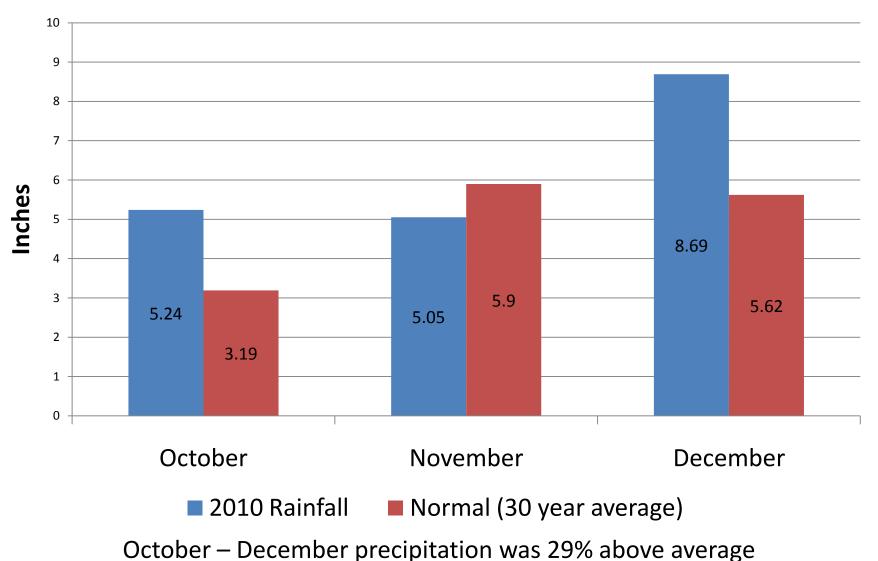


#### **CSI** Weather

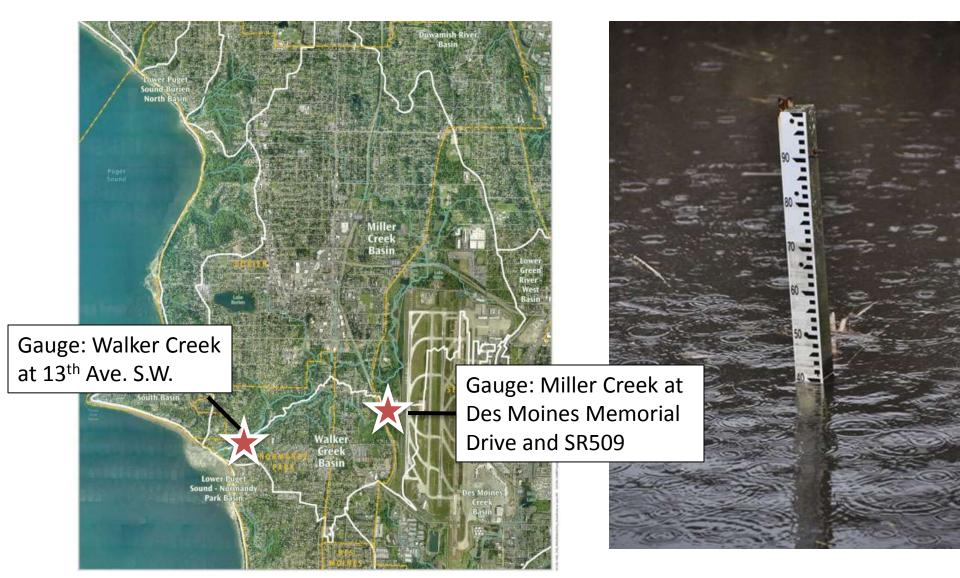
- Average survey time = 2 hours, 48 minutes
- Weather conditions



#### Precipitation During Survey Period

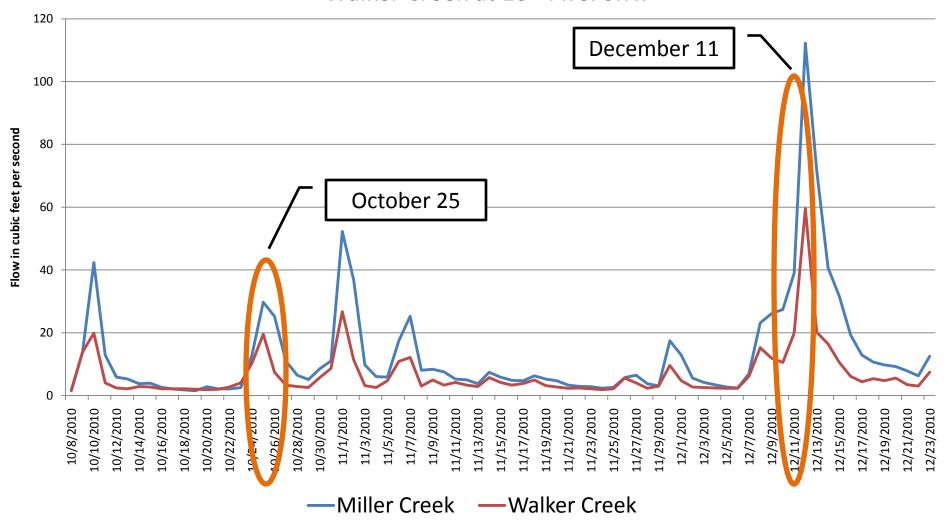


### **Stream Gauge Locations**



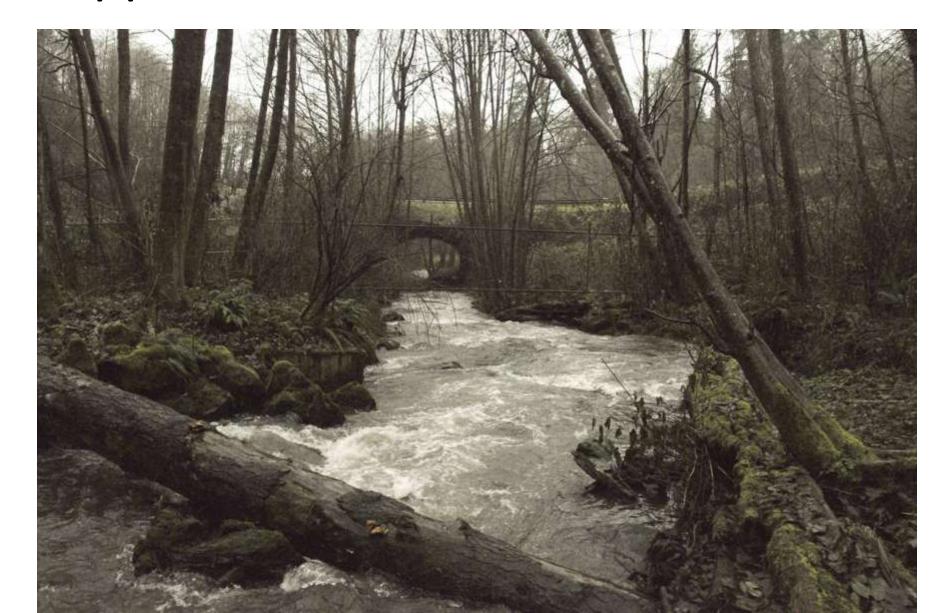
#### Creek Flow – Daily Peaks

Miller Creek at Des Moines Memorial Drive/SR509 Walker Creek at 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W.



## Upper Miller Creek – October 25







## Upper Miller Creek – October 25









#### Lower Miller Creek – December 21



#### Lower Miller Creek – December 12



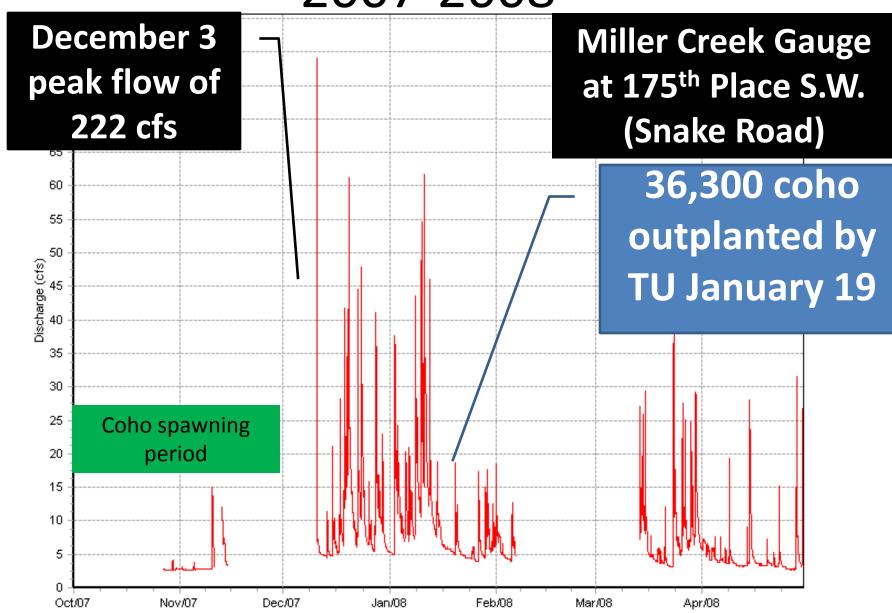
#### Lower Miller Creek – November 4



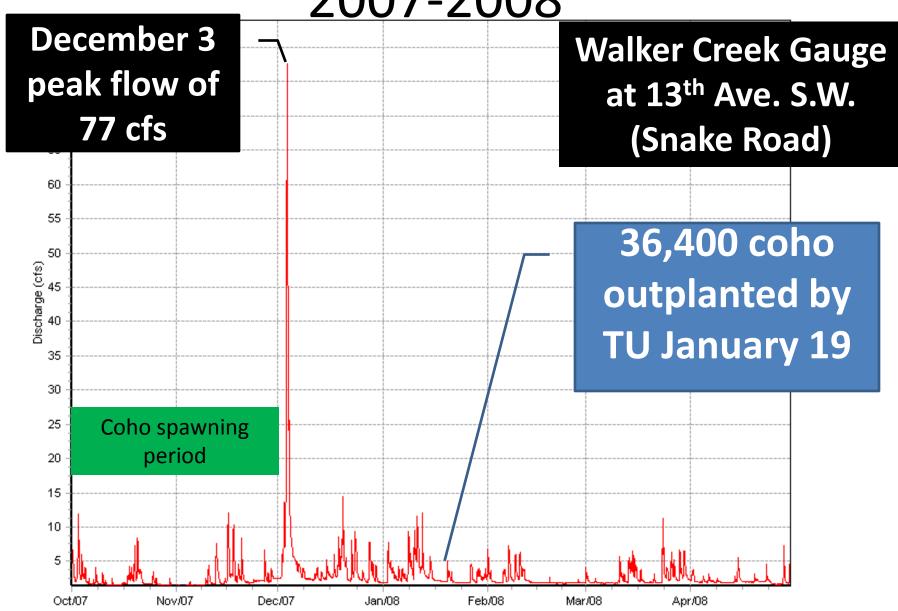
### Lower Miller Creek – December 12



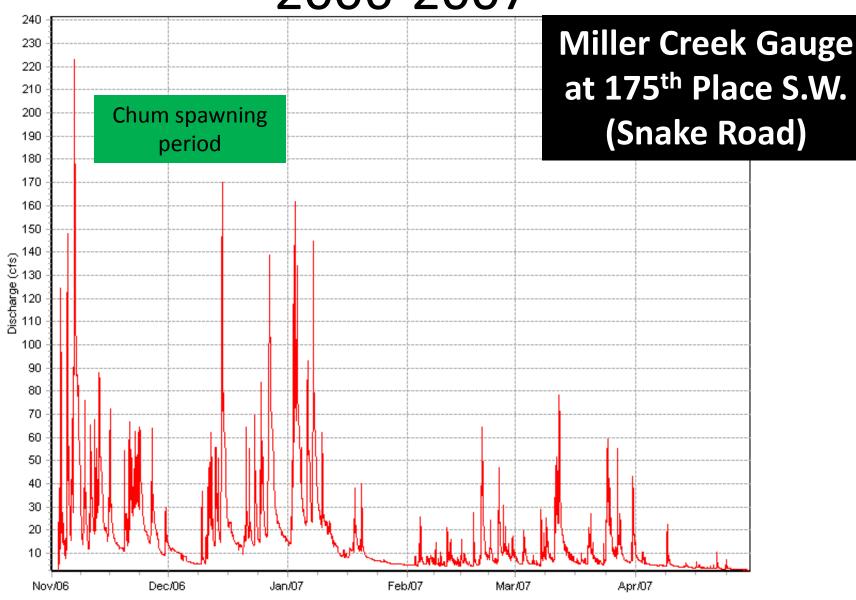
## Hydrology During Coho Incubation 2007-2008



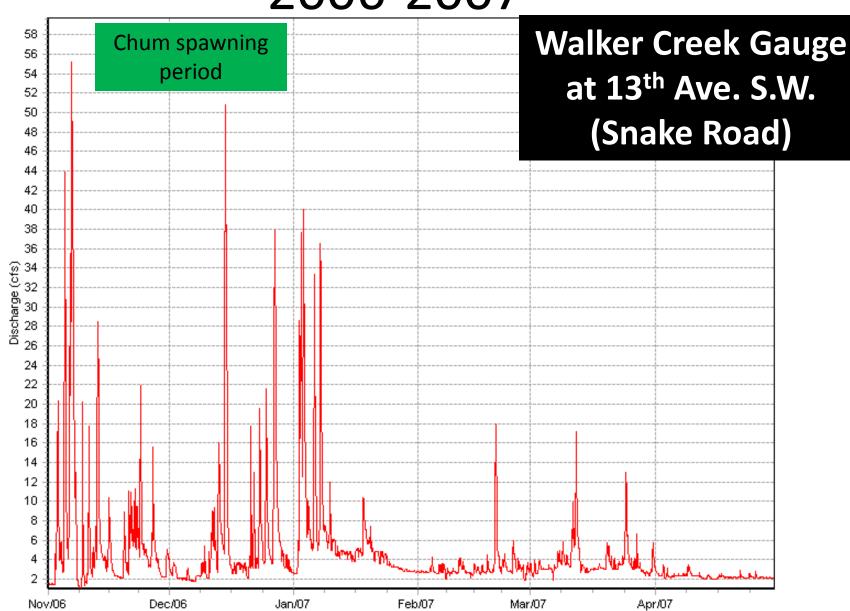
## Hydrology During Coho Incubation 2007-2008



## Hydrology During Chum Incubation 2006-2007

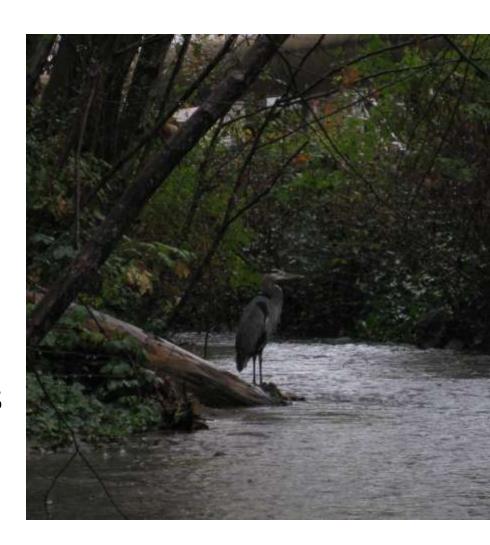


## Hydrology During Chum Incubation 2006-2007



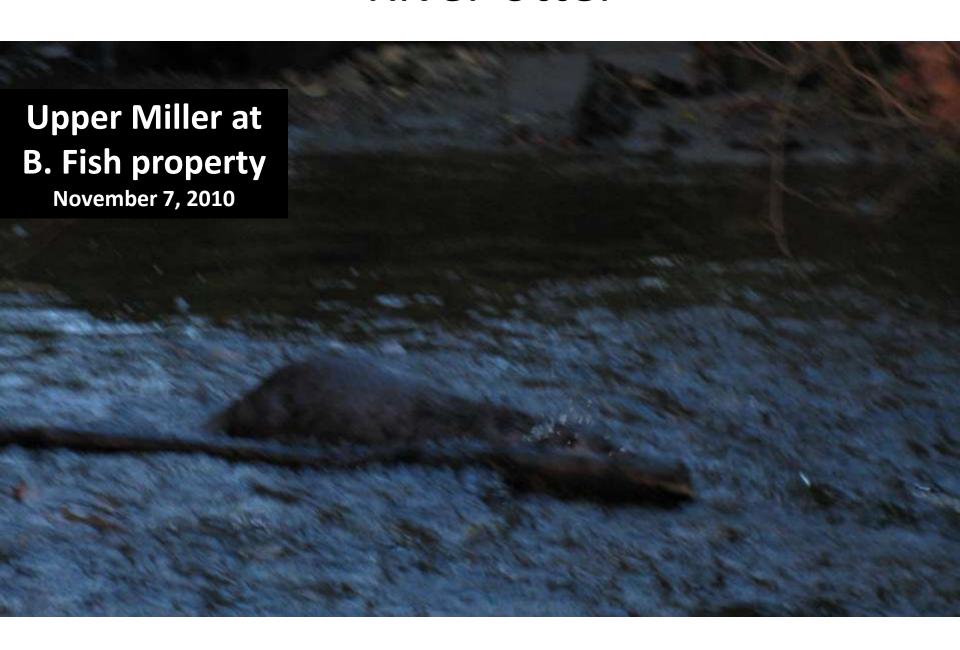
#### Wildlife

- Great blue heron
- Raccoon
- Coyote
- Bald eagle
- Red tailed hawks
- Pileated woodpeckers





#### River otter



#### River otter



#### The Unexpected and Strange

- Number of CSI team members who got soaked = 5 (25%)
- Number of tennis balls = 10+
- Number of goldfish = 2

# River otters in Fox Creek culvert just above Miller Creek confluence

November 26, 2010







# Volunteer Recognition



#### Awarded this 26th day of January 2011 to

#### YOUR NAME HERE

in appreciation for your dedicated scientific pursuit of salmon, living and dead, in Miller and Walker Creeks from October 8 to December 23, 2010 during the inaugural year of the Community Salmon Investigation for Highline. Your collection of data on adult salmon will help the community monitor its efforts to improve the health of the lands and waters of Highline as we seek to pass on a the legacy of a vibrant Puget Sound to future generations.



## **Shared Funding for Stewardship**

King County basin stewardship is jointly funded by five governments:









**King County** 



# 4) Plans for 2011 CSI



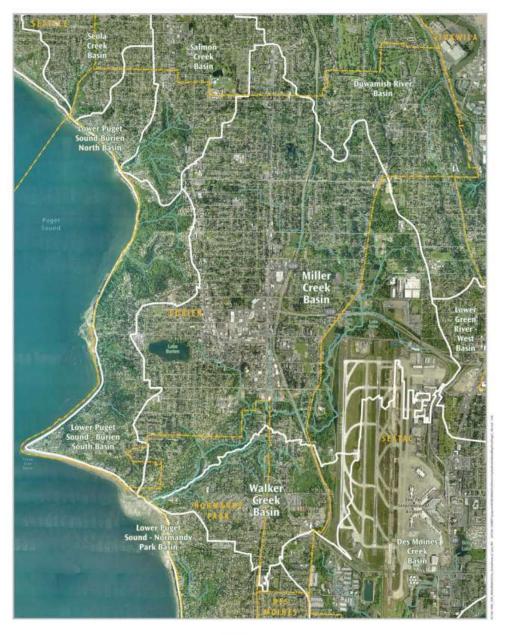
## Plans for 2011 CSI Survey Season

- Continue the excellent work of 2010 by surveying again at four initial locations in Normandy Park
- Add locations upstream in Burien and Normandy Park
- Monitor through end of December
- Increase volunteer pool from 20 to 30 persons (including Highline School District seniors for culminating projects)

# 5) Factors Driving Stream and Salmon Health



## Independent Chinook Populations Georgia Basin Strait of Juan de Fuca We are here Independent Chinook Populations Areas Without Populations Provide Critical Habitat Colors indicate Individual Populations Red Boundary Indicates extent of Chinook ESU Darker Shade indicates Planning Area Map Created - 9/03



#### Miller and Walker Creeks

Basin Boundary Update 2010





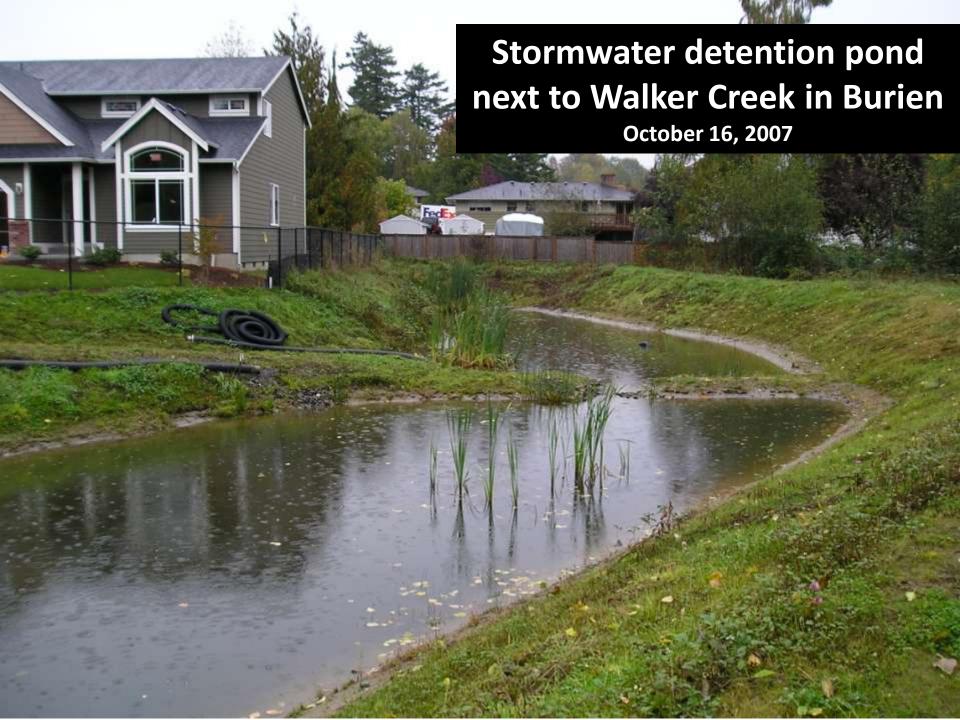
# Factors Driving Stream and Salmon Health in Highline

- Increased impervious surfaces: roads, parking lots, roofs, cleared/compacted earth
- Decreased forest cover
- Pollution on land: pesticides, fertilizer, oil, metals (e.g., brake pad residue), car wash soap, pet waste, silt
- Fish passage barriers: culverts

#### Ways Streams Are Affected

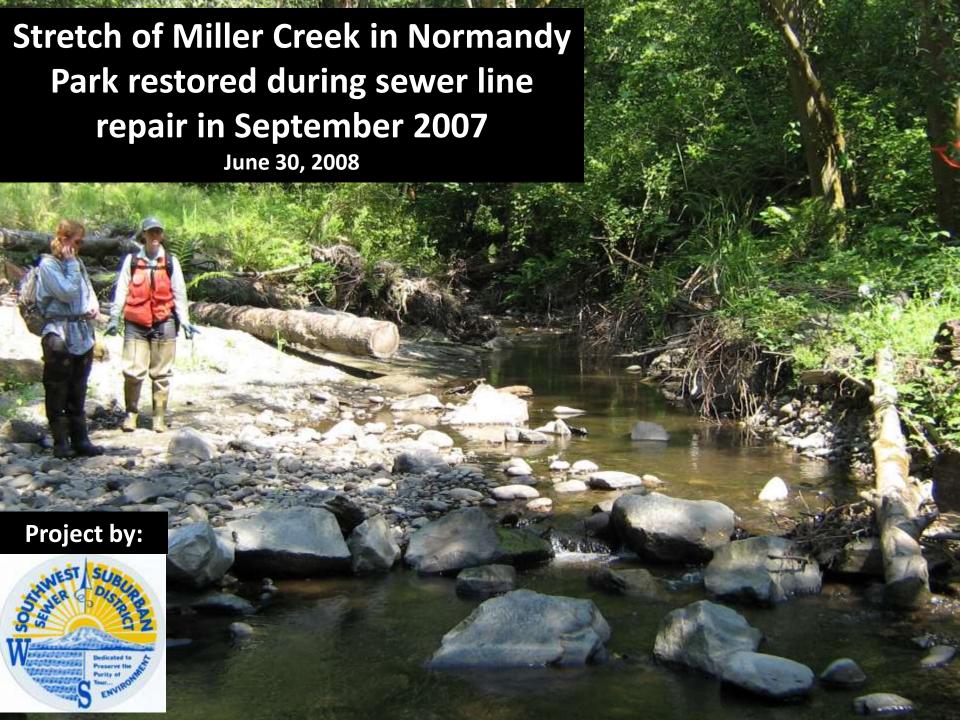
- Hydrology stream flow
  - Higher peak flows
  - Lower summer flows
- Water quality
  - Poor temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity
  - Increased bacteria, metals, pesticides, oil, etc.
- Physical habitat conditions
  - Substrate: hardened, cobble, gravel, sand, silt
  - Streamside vegetation: native, invasive, absent
  - Reaches accessible to resident and anadromous fish



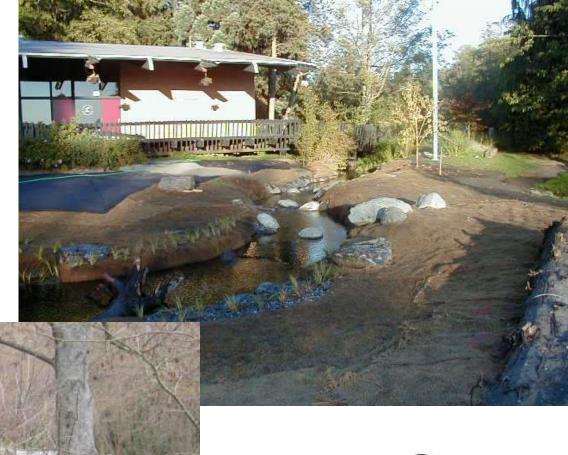








## Stewards of the Cove at work since 2003





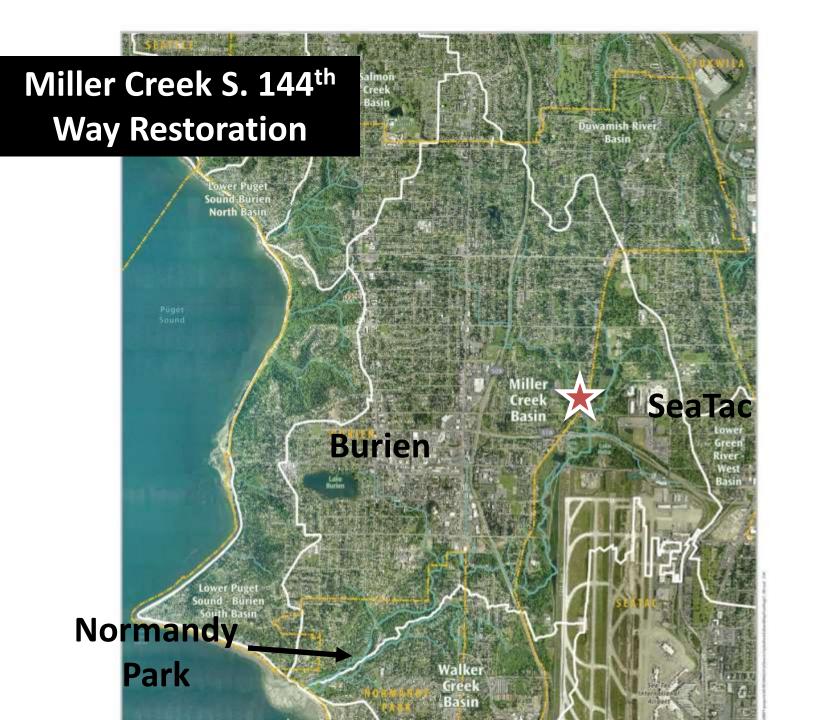
Normandy Park
Community Club



#### **Homeowner Stewardship**



Photo on right courtesy of Kevin Alexander

















VCC members October 27, 2007

restoration project















Normandy Park Mayor
Pro Tem Clarke Brant
removes ivy along
Walker Creek in
Normandy Park
March 22, 2008





Knotweed control on Walker Creek in Burien October 16, 2007

**Control by** 



**Funded by** 



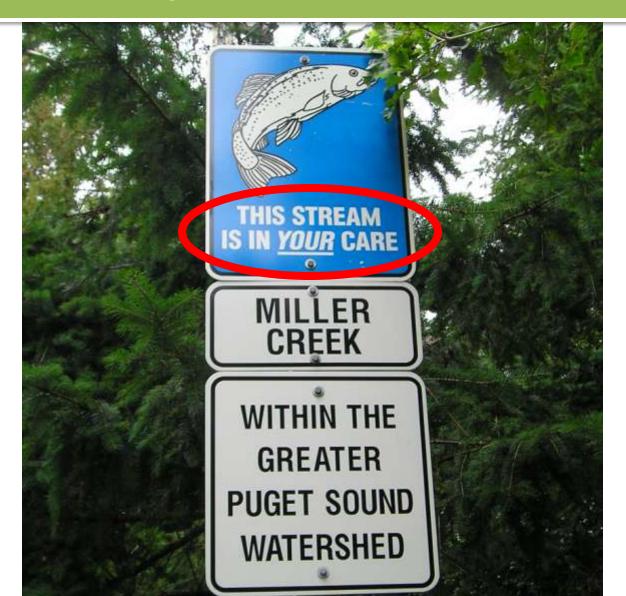




Storm drain marking in Burien with Waskowitz (HSD) program students
July 9, 2010



## 6) Your Role





#### Conserve water:

- By turning off the water when brushing teeth, shaving
- Fixing leaks (#6 "use" of water by households)
- By installing low flow showerheads, sink aerators, and toilets





Clean up after your pet







#### Your car:

 Wash your car at a carwash (avoids wasting up to 80 gallons!) or on the lawn rather than in the street (keeps soap and oil out of the storm sewer and thus out of the creek)





Build a rain garden:





Volunteer to mark storm drains





**Before** 

Save your trees – remove the ivy

After



#### Things You Can Do: Volunteer



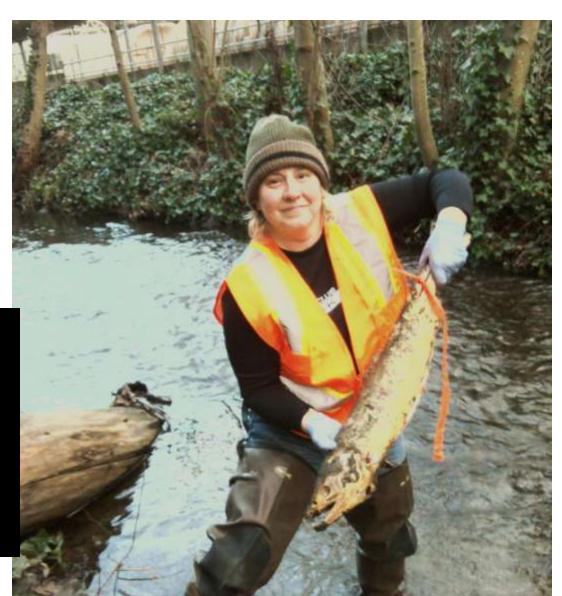
#### Things You Can Do: Volunteer



#### Things You Can Do: Volunteer

Volunteer for the Community
Salmon
Investigation
for 2011!

"Team Saturday"
Annette prepares to
stake a chum carcass
on Upper Miller Creek
December 4, 2010
Photo courtesy of Stefanie Berg



# Community Salmon Investigation for Highline 2010 Presentation

- 1. Purpose of CSI: Highline
- 2. How *CSI: Highline* works
- 3. Results of October December 2010 surveys
- 4. Thanked volunteers and property owners
- 4. Plans for CSI: Highline 2011
- 5. Factors affecting stream and salmon health
- 6. Your role!

